

**Opening Statement  
of  
Deborah Taylor Tate**

**Nominee, Member of the Federal Communications Commission**

**Before the  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
United States Senate**

**December 13, 2005**

## **Opening Statement of Deborah Taylor Tate**

Mr. Chairman, Co-Chairman Inouye, Members of the Committee, it is a privilege to have the opportunity to appear before you today.

Please permit me a moment to thank my mentor and friend, Senator Alexander, for his wonderful introduction; Majority Leader Frist for his thoughtful remarks for the record; and my family, sitting behind me today – my husband, Bill; my son, Will; my son Taylor; and my daughter, Carlton – for their love and support.

I am deeply honored to have been nominated by President Bush to serve as a Commissioner at the Federal Communications Commission. Over the past few weeks, I have had the pleasure of talking to many members of the Committee and I want to thank all of you for taking the time to share your thoughts about communications policy and the FCC with me. If confirmed, I look forward to continuing our discussion.

I look forward to discussing telecommunications issues that concern you this morning. But before we do so, I wanted to express that, if confirmed, I will perform my duties to the best of my ability. I will bring a commitment to study the issues and find sound, reasonable solutions that are best for our country. As a 6th generation Tennessean, with deep roots in the rural part of our country, I am especially interested in issues that affect rural Americans, and if confirmed, I will work to be a voice for families and consumers on the Commission.

In many ways, I feel that my entire life has been spent in preparation for this job. Having spent most of my professional life in the public sector, as a gubernatorial aide for two different Governors, head of a state administrative agency, and, most recently, as Chairman and Director of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, I believe I bring the talent and energy necessary to succeed as a Commissioner at the FCC. And, with your support and approval, I will bring a spirit of consensus and bi-partisanship to the Commission; a willingness to build on what Chairman Martin and the other commissioners have begun at the FCC.

The telecommunications landscape is undergoing unprecedented changes. Indeed, we are all witnessing a new world – a new digital age. Some liken it to the industrial revolution; the printing press; major innovations which shaped and changed our world forever. If confirmed, I pledge my steadfast commitment to work closely with Congress, Chairman Martin, and my fellow commissioners to tackle the complicated issues facing America in the new digital age.

As public servants, I believe we are here to build an America full of promise and opportunity; to improve our economy; to create more jobs; to boost family incomes; and to make a positive difference in the lives of every single American.

Again, I am so very grateful and humbled for the opportunity to appear before you today, and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have. Thank you.